Withdrawal of SPG cover to Former Prime Minister

2935. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found out the compelling reasons for the withdrawal of SPG cover to former Prime Minister (the late) Shri Rajiv Gandhi, despite his vulnerability to extreme security threat, resulting in his brutal assassination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SPG cover to late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was withdrawn only as per the provisions of SPG Act or the security aspects were examined at the Government level;

(d) what are the details in this regard with particular reference to the perception to personal security of the former Prime Minister prevailing at the relevant time;

(e) who was the final authority in the Government ordering for the SPG withdrawal of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and

(0 what follow up action Government has taken to fix the responsibility for the lapses in security arrangements that facilitated the assassination of former Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (e) As per the provisions of the SPG Act 1988, after demitting the office of PM, Shri Rajiv Gandhi ceased to be entitled to the SPG security cover. The question of providing alternative security cover taking into consideration the very high level of threat to his security ws considered and guidelines for providing him security were issued by MHA. The decision to vest the responsibility for the security of Shri Rajiv Gandhi with the State/UT Governments was taken by the Central Govt.

(f) The Government of Tamil Nadu have inmformed that the State Government have called for explanations of the Police Officials who have been held re-• sponsible for lapses/dereliction of duty by ' the Verma Commission of Inquiry. Their explanations have been received. The State Govt, have also informed that it is quite keen to take suitable action aganist the delinquent officers. As regards Central Government Officers, the Commission has not named any officer of the Central Government for any lapse/dereliction of duty. However, the comments of the Central Government Officers on some critical observations made by the Commission against them have been obtained and decision in the cases has to be taken in the light of the observations of the Commission and the comments of the Officers.

N.S.C.N. Office In USA

2936. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news item appearing in a section of the natinal Press that the N.S.C.N, open office in the U.S.A. for a 'greater Nagaland' outside India, is correct or baseless;

(b) if it is correct, what meaningful steps have been taken by Government to resolve it; and

(c) whether Government endorse the view that a lit-bit of military operations in
the North-East regions like Manipur, Nagaland or Assam will not solve the problems of the region and that political reconciliation with a proper perspective on insurgency coupled by faster develop mental processes and clean administration
only will resolve the situation towards a lasting peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the reports that the N.S.C.N. has opened an office in the U.S.A. Developments in this regard are under close watch.